

I look forward to working with all my colleagues in the Senate to produce constructive legislation for the future of our country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EDWARDS). The Senator from Ohio.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO ENGAGEMENT: AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY FOR COOPERATION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, earlier today we welcomed to the historic House Chamber President Vicente Fox, the President of Mexico. At this moment, President Bush and President Fox are in my home State of Ohio. They traveled to Toledo, OH, making several visits there. So we welcome both Presidents to our home State.

As an opposition candidate, President Fox's election and inauguration last year overturned 71 years of one-party rule in Mexico, one-party rule domination of the executive branch by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI. That election made history. And today, with his Presidency, and with President Bush in office, we are continuing to make history, as our nations have the unprecedented opportunity to implement positive changes and to create lasting progress for our entire hemisphere.

I say to my colleagues, it is important that we not squander this opportunity, that we not squander this chance. Because of Mexico's critical importance to our Nation and our hemisphere, it was not at all surprising that President Bush chose to travel to Mexico for his first official foreign trip as President.

This week we welcome President Fox to our country. These historic meetings demonstrate the vital nature of our relationship with Mexico and the importance of bilateral cooperation.

I commend both leaders on their ongoing commitment to hemispheric partnership, and look forward to even greater cooperation stemming from this week's meetings.

No one can deny the importance of our involvement with Mexico—our neighbor—a nation with which we share an over 2,000-mile common border.

Additionally, over 21 million Americans living in this country are of Mexican heritage; that is 67 percent, two-thirds of our total U.S.-Hispanic population. Indeed, many people and many issues bind our nations together. It is in the interest of both Mexico and the United States that we make that bond even stronger.

That is why we want to see President Fox succeed. He is off to a good start.

President Fox's election was received as a positive step in Mexico's maturing economy and has fueled new investments in the country, raising expectations for better economic opportunities for the Mexican people. At the same time, Mr. Fox also has raised expectations here in Washington for better op-

portunities to improve U.S.-Mexico bilateral cooperation on a wide range of issues.

As an advocate of free trade in the Americas, Mr. Fox recognizes that a strong, steady economy in Mexico can be the foundation to help solve many of our shared challenges and advance our mutual interests.

I am confident that President Fox's visit to the United States will advance our growing and strengthening partnership and that both leaders will engage in constructive dialog to promote cooperation, enhance the security and prosperity of both nations, and enable each country to establish mutually agreed-upon goals in at least four areas: First, economic development and trade; two, the environment; three, immigration; and four, law enforcement and counterdrug policy.

In each of these four areas, both countries should seek to implement realistic and practical steps that will build confidence in our partnership and help set the stage for continued discussions and further progress.

A good demonstration of our relationship's success is the economic cooperation spearheaded by the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA.

Thanks to this partnership, trade between the United States and Mexico now amounts to over \$250 billion annually, making our neighbor to the south now our second largest trading partner behind Canada.

In the last decade, U.S. exports to Mexico have increased over 200 percent, and today 85 percent of Mexico's entire exports go to the United States. However, progress in our partnership cannot occur absent continued progress in Mexico's economy.

Although Mexico is in its fifth consecutive year of recovery following the 1994-1995 peso crisis, improved living standards and economic opportunities have not been felt nationwide in Mexico. In fact, as could be expected, the slowdown in the U.S. economy has also had an impact on Mexico. Lack of jobs and depressed wages are particularly acute in the interior of the country, once you get away from the U.S.-Mexican border in the north. That is even true in President Fox's home state of Guanajuato.

As long as enormous disparities in wages and living conditions exist between Mexico and the United States, our Nation will simply not fully realize the potential of Mexico as an export market, nor will we be able to deal adequately with the resulting problems that come about because of that poor economy, because of that great disparity in wealth that brings about illegal immigration, border crime, drug trafficking, and other problems.

In keeping with the market-oriented approach that we started with NAFTA, the United States can take a number of constructive steps to continue economic progress in Mexico and secure its support for a free trade agreement

with the Americas, which is something that clearly this administration and this Congress must push.

First, we can bring to Mexico the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a loan program that also assists U.S. small business investments in many other countries.

Second, we can encourage entrepreneurship in Mexico through increased U.S. funding of microcredit and micro-enterprise programs, which will encourage small business development.

Third, we should expand the mandate of the North American Development Bank beyond the current situation where it only extends to the U.S.-Mexico border.

This bank has been a successful source of private-public financing of infrastructure projects along our borders. Extending its authority inland not only would bring good jobs into the interior of Mexico but also would help to develop and further nationalize a transportation and economic infrastructure.

Continued investments in the NADBank also would facilitate greater environmental cooperation between the United States and Mexico through projects geared toward advancing the environmental goals and objectives set forth in NAFTA and also would enhance the overall protection of U.S. and Mexican natural resources.

Both nations need to pursue a joint immigration policy that takes into account the realities of the economic conditions of our countries. At a minimum, President Bush should continue to evaluate the temporary visa program for unskilled workers, which has proven burdensome for U.S. farmers and small business men and women. Any liberalization of this program should be linked to concrete programs to reduce illegal immigration into the United States. This is not going to be an easy issue. We have heard discussion from President Fox and President Bush over the last several days about this. Many Members of Congress have very strong opinions about it. I believe it is important for us to deal with this issue in a practical and rational way.

Additionally, in a quick and simple fix, the administration should eliminate the annual cap on the number of visas issued to Mexican business executives who enter the United States. Currently, the cap stands at 5,500. And under current law, it will be phased out in the year 2004. The United States does not have such a cap for Canada. Repealing the cap now would send a very positive signal to President Fox and to the Mexican people about their nation's value to us as an economic partner.

Further, it is important for the United States to be seen as a partner and resource, as President Fox undertakes his pledge to reform Mexico's entire judicial system.

I have had the opportunity, as I know many Members of the Senate have, to travel to Mexico and see the problems,

the inherent problems, historic problems, problems of long standing in regard to the police and the judicial system. It was very insightful and important that today, when President Fox spoke to the Congress, he talked about the need for judicial reform. This is an area where, frankly, for all the problems of this country, we do it very well.

We have the ability to help Mexico. We have the ability to help them in this area. We should continue to do so.

With the law enforcement system in Mexico plagued with inherent corruption and institutional and financial deterioration, President Fox will face numerous challenges.

It is in our interest to help Mr. Fox in his quest, if needed, whether it be through financial or technical assistance. It is in our own interest in the United States that Mexico succeed in this reform because our country cannot reverse effectively the flow of drugs across our common border without the full cooperation and support of our Mexican law enforcement friends. The relationship between our law enforcement—our DEA, FBI, Border Patrol, and their counterparts in Mexico—is so very important. I have watched this over the years, and that relationship has been problematic. But I will say this: I believe it is improving. I believe clearly President Vicente Fox has made this a top priority of his administration. It will not be easy, but we can help.

The issues that impact the United States and Mexico are numerous. It is not going to be easy to resolve these problems. All are important, and each is, in a sense, interrelated with the other. Together they present an enormous task for the Presidents of both countries. Perhaps most important, they are evidence of the enormous importance of Mexico to the future prosperity and security of our country, as well as our entire hemisphere.

I commend President Bush and President Fox for the many advancements they have achieved so far. I encourage them to continue this cooperation and this effort. Together, our nations can, in this historic time, redefine the United States-Mexican relationship and protect and promote prosperity throughout our shared hemisphere.

In conclusion, President Fox mentioned a topic which has been debated on this floor many times and which we have taken up and looked at, and we have thought a lot about it; that is, the drug certification process that we go through as a country every year, where we basically say how well other countries are doing in their antidrug effort and whether they are cooperating with the United States. I think the time is here for us to re-evaluate our law. I think the time is here for us to put a temporary moratorium on this certification process. I think it will help our relationship with Mexico. I think it would help our relationship with other countries. I think the time is appropriate to do this.

Mexico has a new President. Mexico has a President who has stated that one of his main objectives is the reform of the judicial system, to do away with the corruption in the judiciary, to do away with the problems they have had in the law enforcement realm. So I think the time is right. If we are ever going to do this, the time is right to do it. I don't think we have a great deal to lose. The current system has not worked very well. It has not accomplished a great deal. So I think the time is ripe now for us to put a temporary moratorium on the certification process.

President Fox, throughout his speech, talked about trust. I think that is the right word. We have to have trust between our two countries. That does not mean we are not going to have disputes. It doesn't mean we are not going to have problems. It doesn't mean these problems are going to be easy to resolve. We know they are not—the immigration problem and the drug problem, just to name a few. We know they are not easy.

I think the right tone was set in today's speech by President Fox.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2001—Continued

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we are entering the period where we make a few last minute comments before the 4 o'clock vote regarding the Export Administration Act, a process we have been working on for 3 years, a law that expired in 1994, and we have had 12 attempts at change since that time. The last time the law was revised, people were wearing bell bottoms and polyester suits and Jimmy Carter was in office.

It has been time for a change and recognition of that. I ask unanimous consent a letter from the National Association of Manufacturers endorsing the bill and recognizing the need for this be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MANUFACTURERS,
Washington, DC, September 4, 2001.

Hon. THOMAS A. DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: I am writing on behalf of the 14,000 member companies of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) to seek your active support for the passage of S. 149, the Export Administration Act of 2001, without inappropriate amendments that would upset the careful balance in the legislation.

NAM member companies are some of the leading exporters of high-technology products, including computers, telecommunications equipment semiconductors, chemicals and aerospace equipment. The Export Administration Act, which establishes broad-ranging exports controls on dual-use products and technologies, will have a direct impact on their business activities in countries around the world.

Our companies take seriously their obligation to protect national security. They devote substantial resources to maintaining internal compliance programs and keeping up to date on the latest export control regulations. In an increasingly competitive global economy, however, Congress should not require excessively burdensome controls that hurt U.S. industry but do little, if anything to enhance national security.

The NAM supports S. 149, as reported by the Banking Committee, because it provides a good balance between U.S. national security and global trade interests. The bill has strong bipartisan support, having been approved by the Banking Committee on a vote of 19 to 1. President Bush has endorsed S. 149, as reported, and his national security advisor has indicated repeatedly that the Administration opposes amendments which would upset the careful balance achieved in the Banking Committee bill.

I strongly urge you to play a leadership role in supporting passage of S. 149 and opposing inappropriate amendments.

Sincerely,

JERRY JASMOWSKI,
President.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent a letter received from many of the computer folks, including Dell Computer, IBM Corporation, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, NCR, Motorola, and Unisys, pointing out the need for this legislation, and the fact they are happy with it, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001.

Hon. MICHAEL B. ENZI,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: As the Senate begins debate on S. 149, the Export Administration Act of 2001, we strongly urge you to support the bill as it was reported out 19-1 by the Senate Banking Committee and to oppose all restrictive amendments during its floor consideration. Passage of S. 149 will represent an important step forward in the development of an export control system that more effectively accounts for modern developments in technology and international market conditions, while protecting national security.

S. 149 enjoys broad, bipartisan support in Congress, as well as the endorsement of President Bush and his national security team, which opposes amendments that would upset the careful balance achieved in the Banking Committee bill.

Among S. 149's many provisions is one of critical importance to the U.S. computer industry. Section 702(k) would eliminate those provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for 1998 that lock the President into using a specific metric, known as MTOPS (millions of theoretical operations per second), to establish export control thresholds for computers. Section 702(k) would not eliminate current restrictions on computer exports, but would give the President the authority and flexibility needed to review the MTOPS control system and develop a more modern, effective framework